



Minuteman UPDATE

February 2003

Massachusetts National
Guard monthly
newsletter for members,
families, and friends

Visit the Massachusetts National Guard Website at www.state.ma.us/guard

Helping a child 'bear' time away from Mom or Dad

The Family Programs Office is helping an independent program that gives free Teddy bears to children who have a parent deployed. While not officially endorsed by the National Guard, it is a program that can make a difference to children who miss their mothers and fathers.

Here's some details:

What is The Bear Cares Program?

The Bear Cares Program was created for all the children affected by the deployment of the MA National Guard. These children go through many emotional difficulties as a result of this separation. Our purpose is to help in this time of stress.

What is The Bear Cares?

The Bear Cares is a stuffed animal friend who proudly wears the American Flag. Inside the bear's pocket is a hand written, heart felt message from the departing parent.

What is The Bear Cares Message?

The Bear Cares "message in the pocket" provides comfort and companionship for every child whose parent leaves home to serve our nation.

Who are The Bear Cares beneficiaries?

Our intention is to provide every parent in the Mass. National Guard a bear to give their child just before deployment overseas.

Is there anything that can be done to help the program?

Volunteers are needed to "Americanize" each bear by adding the American Flag. The process is simple, quick and easy.

Imagine a child holding a cuddly bear his Mom gave him just before going far, far away.

Imagine the sweet, loving words in his new friend's pocket. Imagine how the child feels.

You can help make it happen.

The Bear Cares Program is a project that you can be involved in.... all it takes to make it happen are some big hearts and a little bit of time!

For more information or to volunteer to help, contact Angie Germano at the Family Programs Office at 508-233-7221 or Leslie Gabriele at 781-276-7999 or by e-mail at leslie@gabrieleandcompany.com

Back in Mass.



Photo by Master Sgt. Pallas DeBettencourt, JFHQ-MA

Capt. Shawn Cody addresses his troops during the 180th Engineer Detachment's redeployment awards ceremony in January. The unit's approximately 60 soldiers returned from Kuwait in August. In Kuwait, the unit built and improved Army facilities.

Some 1,000 MANG troops are overseas

The Massachusetts National Guard is in the midst of the largest deployment of troops since World War II.

As of mid-January, the Massachusetts National Guard has approximately 1,500 soldiers and airmen serving on active duty at home and abroad. Nearly 1,000 of those are serving overseas both in Iraq and Afghanistan as well as other areas of the world. Units from both the Air National Guard and the Army Guard have been deployed.

The total who served on active duty since September 11, 2001 is roughly 7,000, more than 3,000 of which served overseas.

Computer virus protection software is available for free

Computer viruses are appearing at an alarming rate. Today, it is estimated that there are more than 64,000 in existence and more than 100 new viruses are identified every week.

Unfortunately, these viruses target all computers, including the one in your home. They can cause the loss of valuable data or open your computer to even greater vulnerabilities. You can protect

your system from viruses and intruders now at no cost.

The Department of Defense has made a provision for the protection of their network assets to include your home computer. All DoD employees may download the latest antivirus and firewall software now, even from home.

The ACERT-CNO is proud to support all soldiers at work and at home.

Our goal is to be your authoritative source for Information Assurance and Computer Security.

Access us from anywhere with your AKO login.

Symantec: Download the software from our site at: www.acert.1stiocmd.army.mil/Antivirus/symantec.htm. For the McAfee software download from: www.mcafee.com/dod

Hockey team offers military discount tickets

The hard-hitting Springfield Falcons hockey team is holding a special Military Night for service members on Saturday, Feb. 21.

The Falcons will face-off that night against the Worcester Ice Cats in an American Hockey League match-up.

Game time will be 7:30 p.m. at the Springfield Civic Center.

All military personnel, along with family and friends, can purchase Falcons tickets for \$10 each.

The ticket discount is also being offered to all U.S. military veterans and their families.

Tickets can be ordered by telephone by calling the Falcons office at (413) 739-3344.

The discount ticket offer is good through Feb. 18.

Ball rescheduled

The National Guard Heritage Muster and Equestrian Unit Benefit Ball, originally scheduled for Jan. 31, has been rescheduled to coincide with the annual National Guard Heritage Muster in Salem on April 17.

It will now be held in the Bartlett Room at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, at 7 p.m.

Those who have already purchased the \$50 tickets for the Jan. 31 event can make arrangements to get new tickets. Others can purchase tickets through the Massachusetts National Guard Museum at (508) 797-0334.

Dinner to benefit state armorer fighting cancer being held March 20

Dean Lapointe's friends in the Mass. National Guard are sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on March 20 for his benefit.

Lapointe, the state armorer in Westfield for more than seven years and a friend and supporter of the Massachusetts National Guard, has been diagnosed with cancer.

A former Air Force veteran, Lapointe is trying to buy some of his military time back so he can get his pension.

The benefit dinner includes spaghetti with a salad and dessert. Raffle prizes will be awarded.

The dinner will be held at VFW Post 6645 in Russell, Mass.

The cost is \$10 a ticket and all money must be in by March 2.

For more information contact Staff Sgt. Lucien A. Rivera Sr. of HHC 1-104th IN (L) in Westfield, Mass. at (413) 568-8918 or by e-mail at rivera.lucien@ma.ngb.army.mil

U.S. Rep. John Olver celebrates opening of 104th FW building

By Tech. Sgt. Glenn LaChapelle, 104th FW

Massachusetts Congressman John W. Olver visited the 104th Fighter Wing at Barnes Air National Guard Base on Feb. 8, for a ribbon-cutting ceremony and tour of the wing's new Security Forces Facility.

Olver and Col. Michael R. Boulanger, 104th FW Commander, addressed a gathering of state and local politicians, state and wing military officials, and the entire Security Forces Squadron.

Congressman Olver was instrumental in securing the \$2.2 million in federal funds that made the construction possible.

The \$2.2 million is part of an overall \$5 million military construction package that includes expansions and renovations of the 104th Fighter Wing's Communications Flight and Medical Squadron, as well as renovations to the unit's headquarters building.

State Rep. Donald F. Humason Jr., Westfield Mayor Richard Sullivan, The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe, and Commander of the Massachusetts Air National Guard, Brig. Gen. Donald J. Quenneville also attended the ceremony.

The 10,800-square-foot building replaces a facility of 3,600-square-feet that was designed to house 44 security personnel. Over the past ten years, the number of security personnel has risen to 73, making the former facility overcrowded and inefficient. The new facility features a state-of-the-art weapons simulator and weapons maintenance section.

QM Dining-In scheduled for March 6

Attention all Quartermasters and friends of Quartermasters. The 101st Quartermaster Battalion and the Minuteman Chapter of the Army Quartermaster Association will host the third annual dining-in on March 6 at the Hanscom Air Force Base Minuteman Club. Social hour begins at 6 p.m.

This event serves as an annual get-together for Army logisticians and features the presentation of the Order of Saint Martin awards, which recognize excellence in combat service support.

Tickets are \$35 for E-7 and above, \$25 for E-6 and below. Military personnel are requested to attend in dress blue or class A uniform. Please contact Lt. Col. Greg Smith at pgsmith@net1plus.com by March 1 to order tickets.

Calling all educators

Recruiting and Retention wants to go to school and they are looking for advice from you.

In an effort to more effectively coordinate recruiting efforts in schools, Lt. Col. Sterling MacLeod, Commander of Recruiting and Retention is attempting to build a network of educator contacts throughout the state.

If you're a Massachusetts middle or high school educator, please contact Lt. Col. MacLeod with your name, position, school, and contact information at: Sterling.Macleod@ma.ngb.army.mil or (508) 326-0976.

Upcoming Recruiting and Retention events:

Feb. 15: Worcester Ice Cats hockey game, Worcester Centrum.

Feb. 22: Monster Truck Rally, Worcester Centrum

March 7: Worcester Ice Cats hockey cats, Worcester Centrum

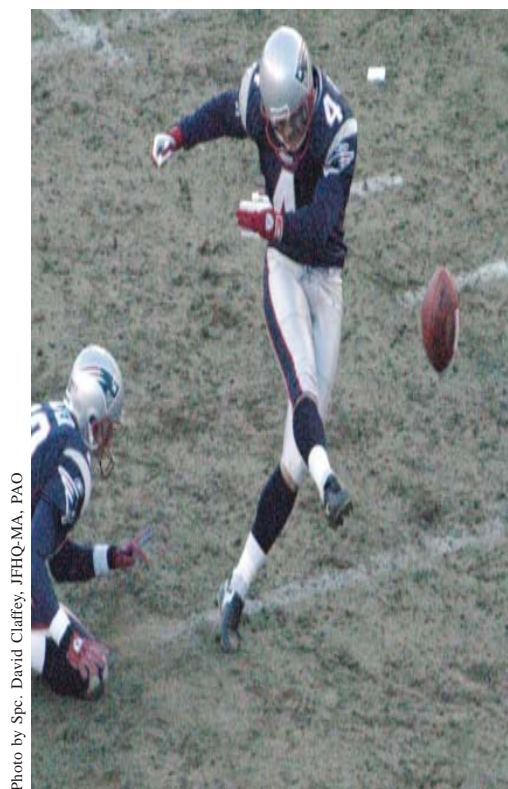


Photo by Spc. David Claffey, JFHQ-MA, PAO

Viniatieri and the Patriots hosted more than 35 National Guard Enduring Freedom / Iraqi Freedom veterans at their last regular season game against the Buffalo Bills, nine of them were from the Mass. Guard. Another 35 Mass. National Guard members attended the playoff game against the Tennessee Titans.

Want to learn more about your educational benefits?

The first stop is your own unit readiness NCO, who can tell you about the programs for which you qualify and give you the forms that start the process.

If you need further help, or if you'd like to set up an appointment with an educational counselor, contact the:

Massachusetts Army National Guard Education Services Office

(888) 301-3103, ext. 6753

or send an e-mail to

education@ma.ngb.army.mil

The Education Services Office maintains a wealth of information on their website.

Check it out at <http://www.state.ma.us/guard/education>

747th Military Police Co. honored for service

In honor of approximately 160 soldiers from the Massachusetts National Guard's 747th Military Police (MP) Company, in Southbridge, a recognition ceremony was held Jan. 24 at the Sturbridge Host Hotel.

The 747th deployed in January 2003 and performed security missions in Afghanistan including security for the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Task Force Compound, Kabul Military Training Center, and Bagram Air Base. The unit returned from active duty last August.

"The professionalism demonstrated by the Massachusetts National Guard's 747th Military Police Company during their deployment to Afghanistan has set an example for the MP units that follow. I am proud of these fine soldiers and grateful to have them home safe," said Maj. Gen. George W. Keefe, The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard.